



Legislative Bulletin.....June 25, 2007

Contents:

- H.Res. 416** — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the public service of Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- S. 801** — A bill to designate a United States courthouse located in Fresno, California, as the “Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse”
- H.Res. 505** — Recognizing the innumerable contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the continuing prosperity and affluence of the United States
- H.R. 2011** — To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the “George Howard, ” Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse
- H.Res. 361** — Recognizing and honoring Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death
- H.Res. 189** — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” should be established
- H.Con.Res. 142** — Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a National Pet Week
- H.R. 2139** — FHA Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act
- H.Res. 477** — Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States
- H.R. 1065** — Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act
- H.R. 2286** — Bail Bond Fairness Act of
- H.R. 1281** — Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007
- H.R. 366** — To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the “Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic”
- H.R. 2546** — To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the “Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”
- H.R. 2602** — To name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, as the “Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility”
- S. 229** — A bill to redesignate a Federal building in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”
- H.Res. 507** — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today

Total Number of New Government Programs: 2

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$1 million in FY 2008

Effect on Revenue: \$5 - \$10 million increase annually

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 1

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 1

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 6

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 1

**H.Res. 416 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives
regarding the public service of Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United
Kingdom (King, R-NY)**

Order of Business: H.Res. 416 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 416 would express that the House of Representatives,

- “recognizes the remarkable public service of Tony Blair during his tenure as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; and
- “expresses appreciation to Mr. Blair for his steadfast support for the United States and Britain's invaluable alliance to our Nation.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “Tony Blair has served as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for more than a decade, winning three general elections as leader of the Labour Party;
- “Mr. Blair played an instrumental role in achieving peace in Northern Ireland and negotiating the Good Friday Agreement which brought all communities into the political and governmental process and ended centuries of division, conflict, and strife;

- “Mr. Blair committed himself to bringing devolved government to Northern Ireland which was achieved with the recent decision of the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein agreeing to form a power-sharing government;
- “the United Kingdom and the United States have had a long-standing alliance which was further strengthened during Tony Blair’s tenure as he and the United Kingdom stood side-by-side with the United States during conflicts in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq;
- “Mr. Blair showed British solidarity with the United States after the 9/11 terrorist attacks by being the first foreign leader to visit Ground Zero and attending President Bush’s speech before a joint session of Congress on September 20, 2001;
- “Mr. Blair displayed exemplary leadership as Prime Minister when the United Kingdom suffered its own terrorist attacks on July 7, 2005, when suicide bombers killed 52 people traveling on London’s public transportation system;
- “the United Kingdom has been a steadfast ally to the United States in the Global War on Terror as it is the second largest contributor of coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan; and
- “on July 17, 2003, Mr. Blair was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal that declared ‘Congress finds that Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom has clearly demonstrated, during a very trying and historic time for our two countries, that he is a staunch and steadfast ally of the United States of America’.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 416 was introduced on May 17, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**S. 801 — A bill to designate a United States courthouse located in Fresno, California, as the “Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse”
(Boxer, D-CA)**

Order of Business: S. 801 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 801 would designate a United States courthouse located in Fresno, California, as the “Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse.”

Additional Information: According to the state of California website, Robert E. Coyle was born in Fresno, California, in 1930, and lived there his entire life before attending law school at the Hastings College of law. From 1956 – 1958 Coyle served as deputy district attorney in Fresno. Coyle went into private practice in 1958, and remained there until 1996 when he became a judge for U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

Committee Action: S. 801 was introduced on April 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of S. 801 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 505 — Recognizing the innumerable contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the continuing prosperity and affluence of the United States (*Klein, D-FL*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 505 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 505 would express that the House of Representatives,

- “the recreational boating community and the boating industry of the United States should be commended for their innumerable contributions to the economy of the United States, the well-being of United States citizens, and responsible environmental stewardship of the marine resources of the United States; and
- “the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe National Boating Day with appropriate programs and activities.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “the boating community in the United States includes over 73,000,000 individuals, generates more than \$39,000,000,000 annually in the United States economy, and provides jobs for 380,000 citizens of the United States;

- “boaters often serve as stewards of the marine environment of the United States, educating future generations of the value of these resources, and preserving such resources for such generations' enjoyment;
- “there are approximately 1,400 active boat builders in the United States, using materials and services contributed from all 50 States;
- “boating, as an activity, provides opportunities for families to be together, appeals to all age groups, and has a beneficial effect on the physical fitness and scholastic performance of those who participate; and
- “July 1, 2007, would be an appropriate day to establish as National Boating Day.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 505 was introduced on June 20, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.R. 2011— To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the “George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse” (Ross, D-AR)

Order of Business: H.R. 2011 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2011 would designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the “George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

Additional Information: According to the Arkansas News Bureau, George Howard Jr. was born in 1925 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. At the age of 18, Howard joined the Navy and served during World War II. Following his return, Howard received a law degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where he became the first black student to live on campus. After a long legal career, Howard became the first black justice to serve on the Arkansas Supreme Court in 1977, and went on to serve on the U.S. District Court in Arkansas

Committee Action: H.R. 2011 was introduced on April 24, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s Subcommittee on Economic

Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management. The subcommittee held a mark up on May 17, 2007, and reported the bill to the full committee by voice vote. On May 23, 2007, the full committee marked up the bill and reported it by voice

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 2011 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.Res. 361 — Recognizing and honoring Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death (*Watson, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 361 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 361 would express that the House of Representatives,

- “recognizes Jack Valenti as one of the greatest contributors to the motion picture industry;
- “honors Jack Valenti for his service to his country, tremendous accomplishments, and contributions to the industry and to the nation; and
- “extends its deepest condolences to the family of Jack Valenti.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “Jack Valenti was born in Houston, Texas on September 5, 1921, and resided in Washington, DC and Beverly Hills, California;
- “Jack Valenti graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Arts and a M.B.A from Harvard University;
- “Jack Valenti served as special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson;
- Jack Valenti was the distinguished president of the Motion Picture Association of America for 38 years;
- “Jack Valenti was a trusted presidential advisor, a war hero and an author who was a pioneer in the American film industry;

- “Jack Valenti was a loving husband to his wife, Mary Margaret, and exceptional father to his three children, Alexandra, John and Courtenay;
- “Jack Valenti’s spirit touched everyone he encountered whether in his political career or in his time spent with the Motion Picture Association;
- “Jack Valenti revolutionized the movie industry through the creation of a voluntary movie ratings system that has endured to this day;
- “Jack Valenti’s vision for the movie industry has stood the test of time and provided guidance for families in their movie viewing experiences as well as safeguards for our filmmakers;
- “the vision and character Jack Valenti brought to the industry will be gravely missed; and
- “on April 26, 2007, Jack Valenti passed away, prompting friend and confidant Dan Glickman to say ‘Jack was a showman, a gentleman, an orator, and a passionate champion of this country, its movies, and the enduring freedoms that made both so important to this world. He also embodied the theatricality of our industry with his conviction, quick wit and boundless energy. In a very real sense, he was the ultimate leading man’.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 361 was introduced on May 1, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark up and reported the resolution by voice vote on June 12, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Res. 189 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” should be established (*Sanchez, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 189 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 189 would express the House of Representatives that, “there should be established a ‘Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day’ to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “the Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with United States Armed Forces and South Vietnam;
- “members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961;
- “as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408), on August 7, 1964, which effectively handed over war-making powers to President Johnson until such time as ‘peace and security’ had returned to Vietnam;
- “by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;
- “on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;
- “on March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam;
- “more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded;
- “in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;
- “members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War;
- “the establishment of a ‘Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day’ would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; and
- “March 30 would be an appropriate day to establish as ‘Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day’.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 189 was introduced on February 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark up and reported the resolution by voice vote on June 12, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Con.Res. 142 — Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a National Pet Week (Shays, R-CT)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 142 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 142 would express the House of Representatives that,

- “there should be established a National Pet Week; and
- “the people of the United States should observe National Pet Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “May 6 to May 12, 2007, marks 26th anniversary of ‘National Pet Week’, sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Auxiliary to the American Veterinary Medical Association;
- “animals and pets give companionship and pleasure in daily living, share the homes of nearly 69,000,000 individuals or families in the United States, and provide special benefits to elderly persons and children;
- “the people of the United States have a firm commitment to promote responsible care of animals and pets and guard against cruel and irresponsible treatment;
- “teaching kindness and respect for all living animals through education in schools and communities is essential to the basic values of a humane and civilized society;
- “the people of the United States are grateful to the veterinary medical profession for providing preventive and emergency medical care and assistance to animals, spaying and neutering animals to combat overpopulation, and contributing to the education of animal owners; and
- “the people of the United States are indebted to animal protection organizations, State humane organizations, and local animal care and control agencies for promoting respect for animals and pets, educating children about humane attitudes, and caring for lost, unwanted, abused, and abandoned animals.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 142 was introduced in the House on May 3, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark up and reported the resolution by voice vote on June 12, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2139 — FHA Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act (Donnelly, D-IN)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2139 amends the National Housing Act to modify the Federal Housing Authority's (FHA's) loan guarantee program for manufactured housing (i.e. mobile homes). The bill would eliminate the current cap on FHA's exposure on manufactured housing loan guarantees of 10 percent of the value of a lender's portfolio and allow FHA to guarantee 90 percent of an individual loan. According to CBO, "this change would greatly expand government liability under the program." This is an attempt to establish a secondary lending market in the manufactured housing arena by encouraging Ginne Mae to securitize loans.

The bill also increases the loan limits on manufactured housing from \$48,000 to \$68,040 and directs the Secretary to adjust the limits for inflation each year. In addition, H.R. 2139 allows FHA to charge up-front premiums of 2.25 percent (up from 1 percent) and 1 percent annually to offset the cost of expected defaults.

Additional Information: According to the committee report, since the early 1990s, the number of loans for manufactured housing (which costs an average of \$60,000) has dropped from 30,000 to 1,500. Financing options are somewhat limited, with only two private lenders currently participating in the FHA program and no secondary market in existence. CBO estimates that the 11 million manufactured homes currently in the U.S. are financed through personal loans.

Committee Action: H.R. 2139 was introduced on May 3, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Financial Services, which held a mark up on May 23, 2007. On June 21, 2007, the bill was reported, as amended,

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, the cost of the bill is uncertain, resulting "in costs or savings of less than \$500,000 a year" (subject to appropriations). Furthermore, in a study requested last year by RSC Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), CBO stated that current budget rules understate the cost of federal credit programs, such as FHA loan programs, in part by failing to account for market risk and separately listing administrative expenses.

[Current budget rules] understate the cost of FHA guarantees relative to that of other federal spending programs....For example, a proposal to spend \$2 billion per year for vouchers to permit high-risk first-time home buyers to purchase private mortgage insurance would have a budget cost of \$10 billion over a five-year period, whereas the fiscally equivalent alternative of operating the [FHA] program under current policy would be shown in the budget as having net savings of \$1.8 billion for that same period.

Source: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/74xx/doc7412/07-17-FHA.pdf>

As a result, while the CBO cost estimate may suggest “savings” from expanding the FHA manufactured housing loan program, H.R. 2139’s actual burden to the taxpayer is far greater.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: The bill expands a federal loan program.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Financial Services Committee cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

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H.Res. 477 — Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States (Miller, R-CA)

Order of Business: H.Res. 477 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 477 would express the House of Representatives that,

- “fully supports the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month; and
- “recognizes the importance of homeownership in building strong communities and families.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “the President of the United States has issued a proclamation designating the month of June 2007 as National Homeownership Month;
- “the national homeownership rate in the United States has reached a record high of almost 70 percent and more than half of all minority families are homeowners;
- “the people of the United States are one of the best-housed populations in the world;
- “owning a home is a fundamental part of the American dream and is the largest personal investment many families will ever make;
- “homeownership provides economic security for homeowners by aiding them in building wealth over time and strengthens communities through a greater stake among homeowners in local schools, civic organizations, and churches;

- “creating affordable homeownership opportunities requires the commitment and cooperation of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, including the Federal Government and State and local governments; and
- “the current laws of the United States, such as the American Dream Downpayment Act, encourage homeownership and should continue to do so in the future.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 477 was introduced on June 11, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 1065 — Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act (*Moore, D-KS*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1065 attempts to reform the regulatory structure for nonadmitted insurance, also known as “surplus lines,” which are insurance policies sold to cover specialized risks for which the standard market does not offer policies (earthquakes, terrorism, product liability, etc.). The bill states that only the home state (where the principal place of business is maintained) of an insured may charge a premium tax for nonadmitted insurance. In addition, states would be encouraged to enter into a compact to share the premium taxes collected by the insured’s home state and adopt a nationwide, uniform procedure for the reporting, paying, and collecting of such taxes. Under current law, nonadmitted insurance purchasers are often double taxed, as different states have different assessment formulas and insurance policies often must cover multiple states.

H.R. 1065 similarly states that the statutory and regulatory requirements of the insured’s home state will govern alone (all regulations of a non-home state are preempted), and no state, other than an insured’s home state, would be permitted to require a broker to be licensed to sell nonadmitted insurance in their state. Currently, brokers often have to maintain as many as 50 different licenses. H.R. 1065 requires that states impose uniform eligibility requirements in conformance with the Non-Admitted Insurance Model Act. GAO would be required to study the effect of H.R. 1065’s provisions on the nonadmitted insurance market and submit its findings to Congress.

The legislation also attempts to reform the regulatory structure for reinsurance (insurance for insurance companies). H.R. 1065 ensures that no state may deny a “credit” for reinsurance to a primary insurer (or ceding insurer) who is domiciled in another state if that state is properly accredited by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Currently, a ceding insurer can receive a credit for purchasing reinsurance and therefore either reduce its liabilities or increase its assets on its financial statements. However, some states have been refusing to accept the credits given to companies in their state of domicile. H.R. 1065 preempts states’ ability to refuse the credits of other states, as it would their ability to impose laws and regulations that further restrict the ceding insurer. Such authority would rest solely with the state of domicile. Furthermore, the bill provides the state of domicile (if accredited) with the authority to regulate the financial solvency standards of a reinsurer.

Committee Action: H.R. 1065 was introduced on February 15, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Financial Services. On April 11, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 1065 is not available. However, a score for H.R. 5637, a nearly identical bill passed in the 109th Congress, states that the bill would increase federal revenues by \$5-10 million per year between 2008-2016, since the bill prohibits states from taxing certain insurance products which in turn reduces federal tax deductions. The bill would have no significant impact on direct spending.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: Yes. By preempting states from taxing and regulating insurance products issued to companies who are principally located in other states, H.R. 1065 includes an intergovernmental mandate. However, according to CBO, the costs to state governments of complying with this mandate would fall under the annual threshold for intergovernmental mandates established by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

Constitutional Authority: Although a Committee Report citing constitutional authority for H.R. 1065 is not available, a committee report for a nearly identical bill (H.R. 5637) cite constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution (“to regulate commerce...among the several states”).

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H.R. 2286 — Bail Bond Fairness Act of 2007 (*Wexler, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.R. 2286 is scheduled for consideration on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2286 would prohibit federal judges from forcing defendants to forfeit their bail bonds for any reason other than failure to appear at a court date. Judges would be allowed to refuse or revoke bail at any time, but unable to forfeit the bond money unless the defendant failed to appear. The bill would amend the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to grant that if a defendant fails to appear before the court the court shall declare a forfeiture of the bail. Currently a judge can forfeit a defendant's bond money for a breach of any condition of bail.

The bill lists the following findings explaining the need for legislation:

- “Historically, the sole purpose of bail in the United States was to ensure the defendant’s physical presence before a court. The bail bond would be declared forfeited only when the defendant actually failed to appear as ordered. Violations of other, collateral conditions of release might cause release to be revoked, but would not cause the bond to be forfeited. This historical basis of bail bonds best served the interests of the Federal criminal justice system.
- “Currently, however, Federal judges have merged the purposes of bail and other conditions of release. These judges now order bonds forfeited in cases in which the defendant actually appears as ordered but he fails to comply with some collateral condition of release. The judges rely on Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 46(f) as authority to do so.
- “Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 46(e) has withstood repeated court challenges. In cases such as *United States v. Vaccaro*, 51 F.3d 189 (9th Cir. 1995), the rule has been held to authorize Federal courts specifically to order bonds forfeited for violation of collateral conditions of release and not simply for failure to appear. Moreover, the Federal courts have continued to uphold and expand the rule because they find no evidence of congressional intent to the contrary, specifically finding that the provisions of the Bail Bond Act of 1984 were not intended to supersede the rule.
- “As a result, the underwriting of bonds for Federal defendants has become virtually impossible. Where once the bail agent was simply ensuring the defendant's physical presence, the bail agent now must guarantee the defendant's general good behavior. Insofar as the risk for the bail agent has greatly increased, the industry has been forced to adhere to strict underwriting guidelines, in most cases requiring full collateral. Consequently, the Federal criminal justice system has been deprived of any meaningful bail bond option.”

The bill also lists the following purposes of the legislation:

- “to restore bail bonds to their historical origin as a means solely to ensure the defendant’s physical presence before a court; and

- “to grant judges the authority to declare bail bonds forfeited only where the defendant actually fails to appear physically before a court as ordered and not where the defendant violates some other collateral condition of release.”

Committee Action: H.R. 2286 was introduced on May 10, 2007, and referred to House Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on June 1, 2007. On June 12, 2007 the subcommittee held a mark up and the bill was sent to the full committee by voice vote. The next day the full committee considered the bill and reported it by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 2286 is not available, but the legislation does not authorize any funds.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report 110-208 cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

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H.R. 1281 — Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007 (*Emanuel, D-IL*)

Order of Business: H.R.1281 is scheduled for consideration on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1281 would create a new federal crime for giving false information regarding a federal election with the intent to mislead and prevent someone from voting. Intentionally misinforming voters with the intent of preventing them from voting would be penalized by up to five years in prison and a fine of no more than \$250,000. The bill would also increase the penalty for voter intimidation from one year in prison to five.

H.R.1281 defines a “federal election” as any election, run-off, or primary for the office of president, vice president, presidential elector, senator, representative, or delegate. “Election related information” is defined as any information concerning the time, place, or procedure for voting and any information about voting eligibility qualifications. The bill would also require the Attorney General, the Federal Communications Commission and the Election Assistance Commission to collaborate on a report to Congress within 180 regarding voter deception and intimidation.

As a result of the changes in current law, H.R. 1281 would stiffen penalties against illegal aliens who vote and anyone that encourages or organizes illegal aliens to vote in a federal election.

Additional Information: Committee Report 110-101 lists several instances of intentional voter intimidation and misinformation that have taken place in recent years.

- “In 2002, flyers stating voters could cast their ballots 3 days after the election ‘if the weather is bad’ were distributed in New Orleans public housing complexes.
- “In 2004, just weeks before the presidential election, some Lake County voters in Ohio received letters, printed on falsified Lake County Board of Elections letterhead, informing them that their registrations were illegal and that they would be unable to vote.
- “Also in 2004, voters in Milwaukee’s African American neighborhoods received flyers from the fictional ‘Milwaukee Black Voters League’ falsely claiming that individuals could be found ineligible to vote due to traffic violations, the criminal records of family members, or voting in a previous election during the year
- “In 2006, eligible Latino voters in Orange County, California, received mailings from the ‘California Coalition for Immigration Reform,’ falsely warning them in Spanish that ‘if you are an immigrant, voting in a Federal election is a crime that can result in incarceration.’
- “In 2006, certain candidates in Maryland distributed fliers in predominantly African-American neighborhoods that falsely claimed that the candidates had been endorsed by their opponents’ party and by prominent African American figures.”

Committee Action: H.R.1281 was introduced on March 1, 2007, and referred to House Committee on the Judiciary, which held a mark up and reported the bill, as amended, on March 29, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 1281 would cost less than \$500,000 annually to implement this legislation, including costs to prepare the reports and regulations required by the bill. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes. It creates a new federal crime for providing false information regarding an election and increases the penalties for voter intimidation.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report 110-101 cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4, the authority to author writs of election.

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**H.R. 366 — To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs
Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the “Ernest Childers
Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic” (Sullivan, R-OK)**

Order of Business: H.R. 366 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 366 would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the “Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.”

Additional Information: According to the Associated Press, Ernest Childers was a born in Broken Arrow, Okla., in 1918. Childers joined the Army prior to World War II, and during the war received numerous citations for valor, including the Medal of Honor.

According the Medal of Honor citation, on April 8, 1944;

“Lt. Childers previously had just suffered a fractured instep he, with 8 enlisted men, advanced up a hill toward enemy machinegun nests. The group advanced to a rock wall overlooking a cornfield and 2d Lt. Childers ordered a base of fire laid across the field so that he could advance. When he was fired upon by 2 enemy snipers from a nearby house he killed both of them. He moved behind the machinegun nests and killed all occupants of the nearer one. He continued toward the second one and threw rocks into it. When the two occupants of the nest rose up, he shot one. The other was killed by one of the eight enlisted men. 2d Lt. Childers continued his advance toward a house farther up the hill, and single-handed, captured an enemy mortar observer.”

In 2005, Childers passed away in his home state of Oklahoma.

Committee Action: H.R. 366 was introduced on January 10, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 366 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.R. 2546 — To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the “Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center” (*Shuler, D-NC*)

Order of Business: H.R. 2546 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2546 would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the “Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.”

Additional Information: Born in Whittier, North Carolina, in 1932, Charles George was a posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor for his bravery in action during the Korean War. According to his Medal of Honor citation,

“He was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation. Forging up the rugged slope of the key terrain feature, the group was subjected to intense mortar and machinegun fire and suffered several casualties. Throughout the advance, he fought valiantly and, upon reaching the crest of the hill, leaped into the trenches and closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. When friendly troops were ordered to move back upon completion of the assignment, he and 2 comrades remained to cover the withdrawal. While in the process of leaving the trenches a hostile soldier hurled a grenade into their midst. Pfc. George shouted a warning to one comrade, pushed the other soldier out of danger, and, with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. Although seriously wounded in this display of valor, he refrained from any outcry which would divulge the position of his companions. The two soldiers evacuated him to the forward aid station and shortly thereafter he succumbed to his wound.”

Committee Action: H.R. 2546 was introduced on May 24, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 2546 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.R. 2602 — To name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, as the “Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility” (*Stupak, D-MI*)

Order of Business: H.R. 2602 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2602 would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, as the “Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility.”

Additional Information: According to Congressional Quarterly, “U.S. Army Sergeant Oscar G. Johnson served with the 363d Infantry in fighting against the German army in Italy in 1944. Johnson’s unit was involved in a major offensive to break the German’s “gothic line” near Scarperia. By his heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety, Johnson was responsible in large part for defeating the enemy’s attempts to turn his unit’s exposed left flank. For his actions, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Johnson also served in the Michigan Army National Guard from 1959 to 1964 and was honorably discharged as a Chief Warrant Officer Four.” Johnson died in 1998.

Committee Action: H.R. 2602 was introduced on June 6, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 2602 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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S. 229 — A bill to redesignate a Federal building in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center” (Domenici, R-NM)

Order of Business: S. 229 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 229 would redesignate a Federal building in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.”

Additional Information: Raymond G. Murphy was born on January 14, 1930 in Pueblo, Colorado. In 1951, Murphy entered Office Candidate School and was given the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. In 1952 Murphy left to fight in the Korean War, where he won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

According to his citation;

“Although painfully wounded by fragments from an enemy mortar shell while leading his evacuation platoon in support of assault units attacking a cleverly concealed and well-entrenched hostile force occupying commanding ground, Second Lieutenant Murphy steadfastly refused medical aid and continued to lead his men up a hill through a withering barrage of hostile mortar and small-arms fire, skillfully maneuvering his force from one position to the next and shouting words of encouragement. Undeterred by the increasing intense enemy fire, he immediately located casualties as they fell and made several trips up and down the fire-swept hill to direct evacuation teams to the wounded, personally carrying many of the stricken Marines to safety. When reinforcements were needed by the assaulting elements, Second Lieutenant Murphy employed part of his Unit as support and, during the ensuing battle, personally killed two of the enemy with his pistol.”

Murphy died in April at the age of 77.

Committee Action: S. 229 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on May 13, 2007. On May 16, 2007, it was received in the House and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of S. 229 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.Res. 507 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week (*Schwartz, D-PA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 507 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 25, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 507 would express that the House of Representatives, “supports the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week, including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “Americans are living longer and the cost of retirement continues to rise, in part because the number of employers providing retiree health coverage continues to decline, and retiree health care costs continue to increase at a rapid pace;
- “Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States, but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;
- “many workers may not be aware of their options for saving for retirement or may not have focused on the importance of, and need for, saving for their own retirement;
- “all workers, including public- and private-sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from increased awareness of the need to save adequate funds for retirement and the availability of tax-preferred savings vehicles to assist them in saving for retirement; and
- “October 21 through October 27, 2007, has been designated as ‘National Save for Retirement Week’.”

Committee Action: Reportedly, H.Res. 507 will be introduced on Monday, June 25, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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